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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,283	02/13/2002	Tatsuya Okamura	2002_0240A	3512

513 7590 11/17/2003

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, LAWRENCE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

~~0407~~

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,283

Applicant(s)

OKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence D Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Election

1. This action is in response to the election mailed August 25, 2003.
Applicant provisionally elected Group II comprising claim 12. Group I comprising claims 1-11 and 13 have been withdrawn under a restriction requirement.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inagaki et al. (U.S. 5,280,146).

Inagaki discloses a method of manufacturing a keytop (column 1, lines 40-44) by clamping a resin film between an upper mold having a cavity and a lower mold having a cavity, where molten resin flows into the upper and lower cavities, followed by the upper and lower molds being parted and resulting with a keytop (column 6, lines 1-16). The reference discloses the molten resin is injection molded (column 9, lines 8-17). Inagaki discloses the keytop sheet includes a flexible, transparent film made of resin (column

15, lines 3-8) where the invention comprises upper and lower resin sheets (column 10, lines 8-18).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inagaki et al. (U.S. 5,399,821).

Inagaki discloses a method of manufacturing a keytop (column 1, lines 65-68) by clamping a resin film between upper and lower cavity molds and filling the cavities with molten resin, followed by the separation of the molds after the molten material hardened (column 2, lines 41-61). The reference additionally discloses the material being a flexible resin film (column 2, lines 16-17 and lines 67-68) where the keytop body is covered by the resin film (column 3, lines 5-10) where the resin is injection molded (column 6, lines 1-8). Inagaki discloses the molten resin (keytop body) and resin film are bonded together (column 6, lines 60-65) where the keytop body and resin film consist of transparent material (column 7, lines 1-5).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Inagaki et al (U.S. 5,613,599) discloses a keytop sheet with a resin film clamped between a upper mold and lower mold, wherein the molds are provided with a cavity (column 4, lines 50-67). Additionally, Inagaki et al. (U.S. 5,475,192) discloses a keytop sheet (column 4, lines 52-56) where the film sheet is

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clamped between upper and lower molds (column 5, lines 40-50). EP 0616345 A1 discloses a keytop sheet made with synthetic resin and molded on a sheet of resin film (abstract).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is (703) 305-9978. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. Please allow the examiner twenty-four hours to return your call.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.



Lawrence D. Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 1774

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

